



St. Thomas Aquinas School
St. Thomas Aquinas – St. Gregory Grade Reconfiguration Consideration
Table Talk Feedback, Questions and Answers

Question 1: Do you have any questions about the information regarding the district's grade reconfiguration proposal that has been presented to you tonight?

- Are there any changes to current attendance boundaries?
The attendance areas for both schools remains the same. The only change would be that Grade 6s residing within the attendance area for St. Thomas Aquinas would now attend St. Thomas Aquinas instead of St. Gregory.
- Where in the school will the grade 6s actually be?
There is currently space available in the school for the Grade 6 class. Which room will be the actual location will be determined as part of school planning in the spring.
- What is the grade 6 enrolment next year?
There are currently no new registrations and there is currently 1 Grade-5 class, as of September 30 this year.
- What would happen to the grade 6 teachers?
Each school is staffed according to district guidelines. St. Gregory, in the absence of a grade 6 program, would declare the teacher's surplus. The teachers would then have access to priority placement as per district guidelines.
- Are grade 5s currently taking on leadership roles?
Yes. As the oldest class in the school they are naturally looked to as the leaders of the school.
- Will all students fit in the gym for lunch?
Yes, there is currently plenty of space in the gym at lunch time.
- Is the bathroom situation (one of each bathroom) manageable with an extra group at St. Thomas Aquinas?
Yes. The school was originally designed and constructed as a K-6 facility and has a ~~current~~ capacity of at least 200 students.
- What will the hockey program look like?
The hockey program will continue to operate at St. Gregory, with programs at the Grade 7, 8 and 9 level.
- Would before and after school care (Maple Roots) change?
No, there would be no change to the before and after school care program.
- Would bell times change?
Currently, the bell times are currently closely aligned. There is no plan to change bell times at this point in time.
- Will there be bussing changes regarding boundaries?
District guidelines for transportation do not change. Current Grade 6 students eligible for transportation to St. Gregory school purchase a Calgary Transit bus pass and are entitled to apply for a rebate. Once Grade 6 is returned to St. Thomas Aquinas, Grade 6 students eligible for transportation would receive charter (yellow bus) service.

Question 2: Are there any factors that we have failed to consider that may have a bearing on our final decision?

- Very obvious, big transition from elementary to junior high
- The grade 6 transition to St. Greg's is hard but if done, then transition to junior high (grade 7) is much easier
- Keeping the students at St. Thomas Aquinas will make them feel safe
- Extra year of growth at St. Thomas Aquinas
- When students come in grade 7 they will need less time to adjust because they have a higher level of maturity
- Keeping siblings together (at STA or St. Greg's) for ease on families (drop off, etc.)
- Bussing will be extended at St. Thomas Aquinas to include grade 6s which they do not get at St. Greg's